

Dear Hollywood Park residents:

We are writing this letter to bring you up to date on plans to reduce the deer herd in Hollywood Park. This initiative has been undertaken to protect the health, safety and welfare of our citizens – our primary responsibility. It is also very important that each resident be in possession of the correct information.

First, let us assure you that your City Council has been very sensitive to the wishes of the majority of the community; i.e., reduce the herd (not eliminate) by relocating deer to ranches when made possible by the availability of State approved permits issued to ranchers willing to pay deer relocation cost.

The City Council instituted a feeding ban at the recommendation of Texas Parks and Wildlife (TP&W). Management of the deer is controlled by the TP&W since deer belong to the State of Texas.

In September 2003, the Mayor appointed a Hollywood Park Deer Control Committee to evaluate methods of deer control and to make recommendations to the City Council. The Deer Control Committee gave reports and recommendations to the City Council at its October, November and December 2003 meetings. At the same time, TP&W was instituting changes in their regulations dealing with issues relating to trapping, transporting and processing of the deer. These revised regulations were finalized in December 2003. The three State approved methods are:

- Depredation – Removal by sharpshooters.
- Trap, Transport, and Transplant (TTT) – Capture and release at locations approved by the State
- Trap, Transport, and Process (TTP) – Capture and process food for the homeless.

In order to utilize the TTT method the State requires sampling of deer brain stems (10 samples for every 100 deer relocated) to rule out chronic wasting disease (CWD).- similar to Mad Cow Disease. Once the brain stems are harvested the remainder of the deer is processed into food for the homeless.

The Mayor and the City Council on December 16th approved use of the TTP process since locations for transport and release were not available at the time. The City Council also approved the TTT process if the state approved release sites. Both the Mayor and the Council announced more than once that the TTT process was the preferred method of deer control. In continuing to insure that TTT was a viable option, the City Council directed the City Administrator to sample our herd to rule out the possibility of CWD.

We have made progress. Thirty six (36) deer have been trapped and samples have been forwarded to Texas A&M for testing. We are awaiting the test results. Further trapping is suspended until we receive the results since we continue to want to use relocation as our preferred method.

Because of our coordination with TP&W, citizens, and the media; we now have landowners, including the federal government through Camp Bullis, who are approved by the State (subject to CWD test results) and are willing to receive deer from our community. This is good news! Relocation of the deer has been the desired outcome of deer control efforts by the Deer Committee, the Mayor, and City Council from the beginning.

We feel confident that we will have completed our deer management process for this season by the end of March unless there are further unforeseen delays. As you know, the process of deer control, including testing for CWD, was delayed by a lawsuit which was filed in state court and moved by the Town to federal court. The court rulings in favor of the Town have allowed us to continue with our program although we are pressed for time. We have only until March 31 to complete the TTT process and plan to cease trapping until next fall at the earliest and after an assessment has been made.

You may contact the Mayor and any Council members at [www.hollywoodpark-tx.gov](http://www.hollywoodpark-tx.gov).

Thank you.

Sean Martinez, Mayor  
Richard McIlveen, Council Place 1  
Ellen Alkire, Council Place 2  
Wendy Taylor, Council Place 3  
Jerry Miller, Council Place 4  
W. D. Scott, Council Place 5